

## Evening Chat

At a recent meeting of the National Association of Postmasters in the Capital City of the nation, the many interesting papers that were read and the general interest that was shown in the work, calls attention to the remarkable activity displayed in every branch of the postal service since the beginning of Postmaster General Burleson's administration.

It is a noteworthy fact, however it may be explained, that, excluding the border states, the south, properly speaking, has had but two men in that office since the day of Benjamin Franklin—Joseph Habersham of Georgia and Albert Sidney Burleson of Texas. The more populous states of the East with their political power and material advantages, have had the greatest number of such appointments. Of the 48 men who have held office having come from that section. The border states have had 15 and the West only 8. It was not until 1866 that the West was at all recognized in the appointment of such cabinet officer, when Alexander W. Randall, of Wisconsin, was chosen by President Johnson. Subsequently that state furnished three more postmasters General, viz., Howe, Vilas and Payne. In 1829, the Postmaster General became a member of the Cabinet by the action of President Jackson, his first appointee to that position, Hon. William T. Barry, of Kentucky, receiving that honor.

Pennsylvania and New York lead in considering the states of the union that have been most fortunate in appointments to this office. It is found that Pennsylvania and New York have each had six to their credit, Connecticut, Kentucky, Tennessee and Wisconsin, four each; Massachusetts, Maryland and Ohio, three each and the remaining scattered among the 18 states from which all the postmaster general have been selected.

The term of service was, it seems, much longer in the older days than at present. From 1775 to 1850—75 years—there were only 17 men in that position, Gideon Granger, of Connecticut, having served 13 years and 8 months, and Return J. Meigs of Ohio, 9 years and 3 months. From 1850 to 1913—63 years—there have been 31 men in that office. Whether the shifting currents of political life and expediency, or other causes, have operated to make changes in this office, it appears that many occurred in the administrations of some of our chief executives. Roosevelt, for instance, had 4 Postmasters General; Grant, Arthur and Cleveland (in the latter's 2 terms) also had four each; Washington, Buchanan, three; Jackson, Fillmore, Lincoln, Hayes and McKinley, 2 each. The remainder of the Presidents frequently held on to the men they had originally appointed.

The postmaster general being by the nature of his official duties brought into close contact with the people, it might be of interest to know something of these men, who they were, and what notable achievements are connected with their names; but all that is past history and does not concern the issues of today. A few of the more important measures may, however, here be mentioned.

During the administration of President Tyler, while Hon. Charles A. Wickliffe of Kentucky, was postmaster general, many reforms were instituted, such as cheapening the postage, improving the manner of letting routes by contract prohibiting private express and restricting the franking privilege. The foreign desk from which ultimately grew the admirable arrangements of the Postal Union, was instituted by Hon. Horatio King, of Maine. Through the efforts of Judge Hall, of New York, Postmaster General under President Fillmore, the postage on letters was reduced to three cents. The registration system came in under Postmaster General Campbell, of Pennsylvania, during the administration of President Pierce. The Free Delivery Service was inaugurated in 1863 by Hon. Montgomery Blair, of Maryland, also the money order system in 1864, in Lincoln's administration. The Railway Mail Service dates from July, 1862, when Judge Holt, of Kentucky, ordered its establishment, the first railway postoffice being from Quincy, Ill., to St. Joseph, Mo., on the Hannibal and St. Joseph railway.

Historical Data of Beginning and Progress.

Some interesting historical data touching the introduction or beginning of the chief features of postal progress other than that already given may be briefly summarized as follows:

Stage stamps first issued at New York, July, 1847.

Stamped envelopes first issued in New York, 1853.

Letters registered July, 1855.

Newspaper wrappers, act of Congress February, 1861.

Free City delivery July 1863.

Money order system, November, 1864.

International Money Orders October 1867.

Postal Cards, May 1873.

Postage reduced to two cents in October, 1883.

Special delivery, October, 1885.

Rural delivery, October, 1896.

Postal Savings January, 1911.

Parcel Post, January, 1913.

The number of postoffices in 1789 was 75. The maximum number reached 76,945 in 1901, since which time, by the introduction of rural delivery, the number has steadily declined. 20,565 having been discontinued. July 1, 1915, there were 56,380 post offices in operation.

Extent of post routes in miles in 1790 was 1,875. In 1915 the number was 1,672,169. The miles or service performed in 1915 amounted to 617,527,795.

The entire compensation paid to postmasters in 1789 was \$1,057. In 1915 the amount paid was \$29,143,127.

Salary of Rural delivery carriers has been increased from \$300 per annum in 1897 to \$1,200, the present rate. Present cost of rural delivery service per annum \$52,000,000.

While the postal savings ideas date from 1911, it was not made practically operative until 1914, when unnecessary restrictions were removed and the plan popularized and encouraged. Amount to credit of depositors in 1915 was \$65,684,708, divided among 525,414 persons, who took advantage of this safe and convenient way of investing their savings.

The Postal service has become a wonderful organization, transacting an average of 3,000,000,000 business

daily, through something like 300,000 human agents at 56,000 post offices and 6,500 stations of all kinds, handling annually about 1,000,000,000 parcels, 10,000,000,000 pieces of first class mail, and more than 1,000,000,000 pieces of second class matter, serving the millions of people of our land and conveying mail to all parts of the world.

## WORTHINGTON.

## Repairing the Bridge

The county road engineer began repairs on the river bridge here Friday. It was in a very dangerous condition. Several of the sills were so badly rotted that new ones had to be put in. A new floor will also be laid. Travel over the bridge will be interrupted for a few days.

## A Lot Sale

W. E. Shaver is preparing for a lot sale on September 23. One hundred and forty-seven lots will be offered for sale at public auction. Col. D. L. Perry of Columbus, Ohio, will be the auctioneer. The sale will be advertised through the papers in due time. Mr. Shaver has not yet selected a name for his addition to the town but will do so soon.

## Hurt in the Mines

Word was received here on Wednesday that Benny Satterfield, a former resident of this town, had been badly hurt by a fall of slate in the mines at Enterprise. The latest word is that although his wounds are serious there are hopes of his recovery.

## Removing His Apiary

L. H. Robey is removing his apiary from its present location in town to a lot near the B. & O. station on the south side. The removal was necessitated by the sale of his property.

## PERSONAL

Harley L. Pigott, of Shinnston, was calling on friends here on Wednesday. James L. Parish, of Hundred, Wetzel county, was visiting his mother, Mrs. Ellen Parish, here on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. George R. Haworth were called to Phillipsburg, Pa., on Wednesday by the serious illness of a relative of Mr. Haworth.

Mrs. T. F. Morgan is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Charles R. Harrison at Clarksburg this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Barbe motored to the former home of Mr. Barbe in Monongalia county on Thursday, returning the same evening.

Misses Nellie Tennant and Gertrude Fordyce, of Fairview, who have been visiting friends here returned home on Friday.

## LOCKHART INFANT BURIED.

The infant son of L. A. Lockhart died yesterday at the home of his parents at Clifton after an illness with cholera infantum. The funeral took place this afternoon from the residence and interment was made in the cemetery at Enterprise by Undertaker R. L. Cunningham.

## WASHINGTON NEWS -- GOSSIP

By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 26.—At least one West Virginian will take the next examination for appointment as provisional second lieutenant in the army, and unquestionably there will be more as the date of the examination has been set far enough ahead to give others ample time to prepare for the test. It will be held January 29, 1917, according to an announcement made today by Adjutant General McCain, and applications to take it should be in the official office on or before December 31st next. The last examination was held last month and should all who took it pass, which is unlikely, there will be at least 600 appointments to be provided for in the coming January examination.

There are bills pigeonholed in committee introduced by the state's alert congressmen which proposed locating the then proposed government armor plants on sites available from Wheeling to Bluefield and about all available locations in between. Since the bill has become a law that the government shall go into the armor plate business to the extent, at least, of one plant to cost \$11,000,000, it may as well be understood that the location of the plant is not going to be established by the mere passage of a bill in Congress. It is to be located by the Secretary of the Navy, whose selection of a site must have the approval of the general board. Secretary Daniels has set September 13 as the date for consideration of proposals from cities and towns that have sites to offer, together with such offers as private manufacturers may submit for the sale of their establishments to the government.

On that date members of the general board and Rear Admiral Strauss, chief of ordnance, will be present to hear claims of the cities which have asked for the plant. A written brief for consideration of the general board, which under the law must finally approve the site chosen by the Secretary of the Navy, must be filed in each case.

There being no session of the House yesterday, Congressman Littlepage took an afternoon off, spending it in the Postoffice department where he had a host of so-called little things.

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but which are big things to the people directly concerned, to attend to for constituents. A congressman's life, however, is, for the most part, composed of just one of those so-called little things after another, and in the aggregate they take a lot of his time, so complex and dilatory are the red tape methods of the ponderous government machinery. Here are just a few of the things which detained the Third district representative at the War Department for nearly a half day:

Requested the re-establishment of postoffices at Mucklow and Tomberg, two Kanawha county mining villages; secured the establishment of a post office in Clay county to be known as Hawberg, and recommended the appointment of Paul Hardman as postmaster; recommended the appointment of Mrs. Amanda Lilly as postmistress at Crow, Raleigh county; secured an order to investigate the mail service on rural route No. 1, Huntersville, Pocahontas county, with a view to improving the service in accord with suggestions made by people who are hoping for better service than they are now getting. From that department, Mr. Littlepage visited the Pension Bureau where he called up, and urged immediate consideration, of the claims of Mrs. James H. Baker, of Charleston, and Mrs. Frances Vernon, of Mount Hope, Fayette county, and her minor children.

Driving his high power touring car from Wildwood, N. J., and accompanied by his wife and children, Sam W. Meals, a leading citizen of Moundsville, was held up here for a day until he could secure passports to enable him to proceed out of the District of Columbia via Pennsylvania to his home. These were finally issued to him by the health authorities, and Mr. Meals and his family departed. The infantile paralysis scourge is the cause of these precautions. There are now 29 cases in Washington. When Mr. Meals arrived here he had a collection of clearance papers from three states—New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

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## LOCAL SOCIAL EVENTS

**To Mt. Lake Park.** Mrs. J. M. Jacobs and daughter, Miss Jessie, left yesterday for Mt. Lake Park, where they will spend several weeks. They were accompanied by Miss Eleanor Annan who had been the guest of Misses Edna and Jessie Jacobs. Miss Annan will spend a few days at the park before returning to her home in Baltimore. Miss Iets Hutton, of Huttonsville, arrived here last night and is the guest of Miss Edna Jacobs.

**On Motor Trip.** Misses Nettie Martin, Elizabeth Edith and Lena Hunsaker left this morning in the Martin touring car for Green county, Pa., where they will spend the week-end with a friend who resides near Uniontown, Pa.

**To Reunion.** A large number of local people will go to Georgetown, below Arnettsville, tomorrow for the annual re-union of the Arnett family. A large number of people will make the trip in automobiles. This is one of the largest re-unions held in this section as the Arnett connection is large. A number of out-of-town members of the family are here for the re-union tomorrow.

**Returning to the West.** Mrs. Elizabeth Bowen and daughter, Irene, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who had been the guests of Mayor and Mrs. Anthony Bowen, at Bowentia, left last evening for Indianapolis, Ind., where they will visit before returning to their home in Tulsa.

**Playground Benefit.** For the benefit of the local Playground association, a chicken supper will be served at the Episcopal Parish house on next Wednesday beginning at five o'clock. The supper is in charge of the Playground committee of the Woman's club of which Mrs. C. E. Hutchinson is chairman. The supper will consist of the delicacies of the season. This supper is an annual event with the Playground association and the supper served last year was a decided success.

**On Camping Trip.** Misses Mary Russel, Adaline Steele, Edith Bradshaw, of Fairmont, Miss Connelly, of Mannington, and Messrs. Harry Phillips, Kearsley Hartley, Bernard Ginkle, Russel Sturm, Lawrence Russell, Arthur Fisher and Mrs. Russel left yesterday for Rowlesburg where they will camp for a couple of weeks.

**Miss Miller Entertains.** Miss Helen Juarrier Miller entertained the officers and several committees of the local Red Cross unit at a prettily appointed luncheon at the Country club yesterday.

**To Greensburg.** Mr. and Mrs. James Bennett, who had been the guest of their daughter, Mrs. E. B. Moore, have returned to their home at Greensburg. They were accompanied home by Misses Mary Margaret Talbot and Amelia Bennett, who will be their guests for several days. The trip was made in the Bennett touring car. Mrs. John R. Bennett who accompanied her sister, Mrs. B. C. Fitzhugh, to Stewart, Ohio, a few days ago, will join the party at Greensburg.

**Motored Here.** Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Howard and son, Hubert, formerly of this city, who are now residents of Buckhannon, motored here yesterday from Mt. Lake Park, where they spent several weeks and were guests of Dr. and Mrs. E. W. Howard. Dr. Howard came here to witness the corner stone laying of the Presbyterian church. They returned home today.

**Outing a Success.** The annual outing of the Sam R. Nuzum class of the Fairmont High school, held yesterday at the Orestia club on the Valley river, was a decided success and was highly enjoyed by a large number of the class members. The class roll numbers 86 and of this number the following were present yesterday: Misses Eva Hartley, Alta Huffman, Mary Mann, Beulah Walker, Pearl VanGilder, Anna Farrell, Eva May, Grace Crowell, Toyle Hupp, Alice Thomas, Lucile Shain, Esther Layman, Marie Scott, Naomi Springer and Mrs. Helen Alfred Reynolds; Messrs: Sterling Riggs, of Pittsburgh; Robert Tuttle, of Cambridge, Ohio; C. Venton Riggs, Wayne Shuttleworth, J. Ledru Stiffler, Frank Stanhaken, Howard Hawkins, Robert Talbot, Jr., George A. Hough, James Jack, Ralph Hamilton, Cloyd B. Yost. The young people were chaperoned by Mr. and Mrs. Ensel Hawkins and Mrs. Martha Davis.

**To Hold Reunion.** Plans were completed yesterday for a reunion of the Satterfield family of this section which will be held at Loop Park on September 21. The meeting of the committee on arrangements was held yesterday at the home of H. West Satterfield. At this meeting the following officers were elected for the year: H. West Satterfield, president; L. E. Hall, vice president; Chas. M. Satterfield, secretary; S. H. Satterfield, treasurer. This is the first reunion of this family and it is thought it will be an annual affair hereafter.

Mrs. T. B. Robinson and her son, D. C. Robinson, and daughter, Miss Ora Robinson, and grandson, Donald, of Little Hocking, Ohio, left this morning in their touring car for their home after a visit with Mrs. Robinson's sons, J. C. and C. S. Robinson, who has also requested that in view of a man having been found willing to take charge of the office that it not be discontinued as recently ordered by the Postoffice Department. Wacoma is another doomed postoffice in the same part of the state, which Mr. Sutherland today urged the department not to discontinue. The abolishment of both of these offices would greatly increase the coal companies doing business in that locality, and also many private families. Mr. Sutherland has urged the department to improve the mail service on the star route connecting Purgittsville with Moorefield.

Judge William W. Rucker, who is serving his eighth term in Congress from the Second Missouri district, has returned from Lewisburg, W. Va., where he went to attend the funeral of his brother, Hon. James T. Rucker, known throughout West Virginia for years as an educator, aggressive Republican party leader, and for many years head of the deaf, dumb and blind institute at Romney. Judge Rucker is the last of three brothers, natives of West Virginia, who attained prominence in public and professional life. The other brother was the late Edwin P. Rucker, one time attorney general of West Virginia, and one of the state's ablest lawyers and most brilliant orators.

The commission of William E. Patterson, who was appointed August 1st postmaster at Davis, has been made out at the Postoffice Department, signed by the President, and mailed to him. The postoffice at Jeffrey has been ordered abolished, and mail for there will hereafter be sent to Hewitt, W. Va.

An increased pension under the age law will be issued to James Michael, of Middlebourne, so Congressman Sutherland has been notified, as soon as the exact date of birth of the applicant is ascertained from him by the Pension Bureau. An application for fish from R. R. Chrisman, of Morgantown, having been forwarded by Mr. Sutherland to the U. S. Fish Commissioner, that official has acknowledged receipt and approval of the same.

Congressman George M. Bowers spent yesterday making the rounds of the various departments attending to business in which many of his constituents are interested. He spent several hours in the Pension Bureau looking into cases he has pending there for citizens of the Second district.

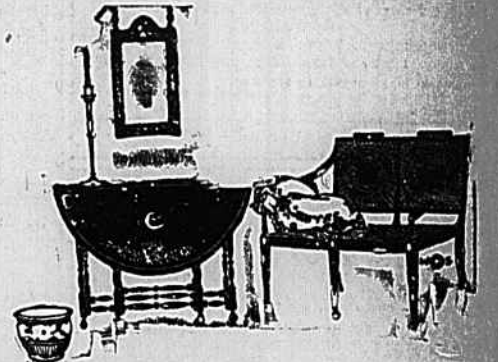
Hartley's



Hartley's

## Now Is the Time to Look to the Needs of Your Home

Not because we have Furniture that we should like you to buy, because your home will have to wait many months before you will have the same favorable opportunity of making it a finer place to live in as you have now in the



## August Sale of Furniture

Some of the finest furniture in America can be bought in this Sale for half the prices at which good furniture stores are glad of the privilege of selling it throughout the year.

The savings on the whole stock range from 10 to 50 per cent. If you want a new piece of living room, bed room, dining room, or library furniture, there is a magnificent selection—all of it as clean as a whistle, made from selected materials and put together to give years of comfort, service and solid satisfaction.

Remember There Are Only Four More Days of the Sale

## PERSONALS

Mrs. John R. Reed and little daughter, Frances Wynn, of Wheeling, are guests of Mrs. B. F. Reed on Cleveland avenue. Mr. Reed will arrive here tonight to spend the week end with his family.

Misses Thelma, Lillian and Beatrice Reed, of Benson, Harrison county, are guests of their grandmother, Mrs. B. F. Reed.

Mrs. Sheridan R. Griffin, of Clarksburg, returned to her home this morning, having been called here by the death of her grandson, John Griffin Prichard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Prichard, which occurred on Wednesday.

Joe Connors and sister, Miss Mary, Miss Winifred Murphy and Miss Nell Watson returned yesterday from a visit of a week at Webster Springs.

Dr. C. A. Sinsel, of Grafton, was a business visitor in this city yesterday. Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Wetzel, Mrs.

Mrs. J. B. Pettitt, of Littleton, the mother of Mrs. Wetzel, and Miss Mariam Grace Pettitt, also of Littleton, left this morning for Beverly where they will spend a couple of weeks. Mrs. and Mrs. Pettitt came here yesterday from Littleton and Mr. Pettitt returned home last evening.

Mrs. H. Glenn Greer and daughter, Miss Mary Greer, will return tonight from a visit of a week at Baltimore. Mason Wood returned last evening from a visit of several weeks at Charleston, W. Va.

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## Concrete Milk Houses Make Dairy Work Easy

Concrete keeps out dampness. It does not absorb or give out odors. Milk cannot soak into it. Concrete walls, floors, and vats are cleaned quickly and easily and help to keep milk sweet. Build a milk house of

## ALPHA THE GUARANTEED PORTLAND CEMENT

and you will have an everlasting, sanitary structure that will be a credit to your farm. You can mix the concrete yourself; we will give you full directions.

We have sold ALPHA, the guaranteed Portland Cement, to users for miles around, and we notice that these users come back for more. Its strength is warranted to more than meet the U. S. Government standard, and it always gives satisfactory results.

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The cost is only ten cents a week. Call at our office or fill out this coupon and mail it to the West Virginian Circulation Department, before you start on your vacation this summer.

Enclosed find .....cents. Mail the West Virginian to address given below for .....weeks. Start ..... Name ..... Street ..... City ..... State.....

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